TL 4753

TIMORESE PRISONERS FUND

A support fund for East Timorese prisoners in Indonesian gaols has been established by solidarity groups in Australia.

The fund has three purposes:

1. to collect funds for the humanitarian support of the hundreds of East Timorese being held unjustly in Indonesian prisons;
2. to heighten public awareness of the existence and plight of these prisoners;
3. to bring pressure to bear for their release in view of the fact that they are not guilty of criminal offences but are being detained on political grounds.

Timorese are known to be held in the following centres:

Dili: Comarca and Becora prisons - 170, tried and convicted of conspiracy to commit rebellion. Amnesty International's request to send observers to their trials was rejected by Indonesia. Amnesty believes their trials were not fair and did not comply with international standards.

Atauro: 800, held without charge or trial as virtual hostages for their relatives who are suspected of supporting or belonging to Fretilin.

Jakarta: Cipinang - 42 men, tried and convicted of conspiracy to commit rebellion; sentences range from 4 to 17 years.
Tangerang - 1 woman.

Unknown numbers are also suspected to be held in Indonesian military district or sub-district commands outside Dili.

The situation of the 42 men in Cipinang, Jakarta, is of particular concern. Cipinang has over 700 prisoners, most of whom have been detained for criminal offences. Conditions, Amnesty reports, are poor. Hardship is compounded in the case of the East Timorese by the great distance between East Timor and Jakarta making it virtually impossible for families to visit and supplement prison rations. Amnesty is concerned at reports that these detainees are not being provided with adequate and nutritional food as required by the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Contributions to the fund are earnestly requested, and should be forwarded to AUSTRALIA EAST TIMOR ASSOCIATION, PO Box 93, Fitzroy 3065. Australia. AETA can guarantee the safe transfer of funds to the prisoners.

To AETA, P.O. Box 93, Fitzroy 3065. Australia. Enclosed is a donation to the TIMORESE PRISONERS FUND.

Name . . . . . .

Address . . . . . .

Amount . . . . . Receipt requested: Yes ☐ No ☐